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To: Memphis Charter Commission

Re: Governance

The City of Memphis, both in geographic size and population growth, has outgrown the current part-time governance provided by the part-time current city council.

The issues that face the city are too numerous and complex to be placed in only one pair of hands consistently, regardless of how competent the mayor is.

The issues that face the city are too important to be handled in someone's spare time, as happens currently since council members have businesses and jobs as their first priorities.

The citizens are entitled to governance that concerns itself with how the city is run rather than their various businesses as in the Edmund Ford episode.

A full-time city council is the only way that the City of Memphis will be able to successfully move forward.

Members of a full-time city council would be as available to deal with issues as the mayor is currently.

Members of a full-time city council would be required to divest themselves of time consuming financial ventures such as businesses and jobs.

Members of a full-time city council ought to have salaries and bonuses tied to the city's mean income in order to connect their governance to the growth and health of the city.